

Annual report based on the Secretary's report to the Annual General Meeting on 26 October 1979

## Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases

During the past year 69 new members were elected, of whom 31 are resident in the United Kingdom. Four members died and eight resigned. At present the membership stands at 696.

Five ordinary meetings were held during the session. The excellent standard of attendance that was attained during the previous year was well maintained and there was lively discussion at each meeting with many members taking part.

The spring meeting was held in Lübeck. It was very successful and our thanks are extended to Professor D Petzoldt, the local organiser, for his splendid work. Our congratulations are also offered to him on his appointment to the chair at Heidelberg, which is particularly gratifying as it is the first time that such an appointment in West Germany has gone to one whose interests are venereological rather than dermatological.

The Council of the Society under the chairmanship of the President, Dr E M C Dunlop, held five meetings, all of which were well attended.

At the October meeting, Dr R D Catterall reported on the European Union of

Medical Specialties. He said discussions were continuing, but no progress had been made, over the difficulty of the specialty of dermatovenereology.

During subsequent meetings Dr C B S Schofield announced that in future a senior registrar would be on the Specialist Advisory Committee, serving for 12 months. Concern was expressed about the imbalance between the number of senior registrars and the number of available consultant posts. It was noted that consultant posts would become progressively more difficult to obtain.

Following Major Mitchell's retirement, the Council agreed that the Treasurer should send him a Harrod's gift token for £50 in appreciation of all the help he had given during his term of office.

The *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* continues to flourish under the guidance of Dr R N Thin and his Editorial Committee, who merit our congratulations on maintaining the high standard to which we have become accustomed. At the January meeting, Dr Thin announced that Dr G Csonka and Dr A McMillan had agreed to serve on the Editorial Committee and that

Dr A E Wilkinson had agreed to act as the next Editor on a temporary basis. He said that the Editorial Committee would recommend two names to Council every year. The President expressed thanks to the retiring members.

At the last meeting in April, following the voting on the timing of meetings, it was agreed that in future ordinary general meetings would start at 7 pm.

At this meeting it was also agreed that there should be a joint meeting with the proctologists during the 1979/80 session.

All in all I am glad to report that the Society continues to flourish and indeed it would seem fair to say that it goes from strength to strength, but we must remember that its future health depends on how much each one of us puts into it.

Finally, I should like to thank all those who have helped me during the past year, especially your President, Dr Eric Dunlop, and the Council, who have been generous in their support.

J BARROW  
*Honorary Secretary*